(b) whether it is a fact that the legal minimum wages are prescribed in the programmes has not been paid to the workers; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) No report of fudging of muster rolls have so far been received by the Ministry. Some instances of lesser payment of wages reported in the press were brought to the notice of the State Governments concerned. Madhya Pradesh has registered cases against two Panchayats for payment less than minimum wage. However, some reports regarding the delay in payment of wages have been received which has caused due to non/less availability of foodgrains in the FCI godowns at some places. Keeping this in view, the States have been given flexibility of compensating foodgrains component of wages in the form of cash if the foodgrains are not available. This has been done to provide unhindered and timely payment of full notified minimum wages to workers. Instructions have been reiterated to the State Governments to ensure compliance of the Guidelines as regards minimum wages and other issues.

Reallocation of watershed targets in Maharashtra

1093. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has requested to Central Government to authorize the State Government to reallocate watershed targets at the district level in accordance with local conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) In June 2004, the Government of Maharashtra informed that the State had prepared a detailed prioritisation Atlas for undertaking integrated development of rural areas on watershed basis and requested for sanction of Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) projects as per watershed prioritisation decided by the state.

(c) DPAP Projects are *suo-moto* sanctioned to programme States in tune with the prescribed criteria and taking block as unit so as to ensure parity in treatment among the blocks identified under the programme. Thereafter, selection of watershed/villages for project implementation is done by the DRDAs/ZPs at district level, as per their prioritisation and criteria laid down in the Guidelines for Watershed Development. Nevertheless, Ministry is also considerate in sanctioning new projects to those selected/prioritised blocks only as proposed by the programme States. In 2004-05, 303 projects have been sanctioned to Maharashtra in accordance with their proposal of prioritised blocks received from the Government of Maharashtra.

The projects under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) are also sanctioned on the basis of priority list of blocks/districts of the State Government, in non-DPAP/DDP blocks.

Connecting village with roads

†1094. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of such villages in Uttar Pradesh which have not been connected with concrete roads;

(b) the scheme of Central Government to connect the road-less villages to concrete roads; and

(c) by when all villages of Jharkhand State will be connected with concrete roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development does not maintain district level data on villages/ habitations connected or to be connected by all weather-roads.

(b) and (c) Rural Roads component of Bharat Nirman has a goal of providing connectivity to all villages with a population of 1000 (500 in the case of hilly or tribal areas) with an all weather road by 2009.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.